

THE BIRDS OF BRITISH BALUCHISTAN

BY

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PART I

(With 2 Plates and a Map)

PROLOGUE

Whilst I was stationed at Karachi and working in my spare time at the 'Birds of Sind' I naturally had to take into consideration, for a proper understanding of the avifauna of that province, the avifauna of Baluchistan. I found what had been recorded for that Agency was very scattered in the literature and mostly dealt with the Quetta District. During my time in Karachi, Mr. Kinnear asked me to work out for our Society a very interesting and valuable collection made by Mr. J. E. B. Hotson during his political travels in Mekran and Kalat. This I was very glad to do and at Mr. Kinnear's suggestion I have as well brought up to date everything which has been recorded about the avifauna of British Baluchistan and embodied it in this paper. My own personal experience of Baluchistan is but small and consists of a visit to Ziarat in September and October 1919, two short visits to Quetta and three visits to the Habb Valley or the Sind—Las Belas Frontier and therefore this paper is very largely a compilation, for which I make no excuse as, since no complete ornithological survey has ever been made of the Agency as a whole, the bringing together in one paper of all known facts will be of great value and help to would-be workers in the future.

INTRODUCTION

British Baluchistan is not of course a zoogeographical entity and few political areas can contain within their boundaries such diverse kinds of country—flat desert plain, thickly wooded mountains, cultivated valleys, bare hills—while the mangrove swamps, rocky headlands, miles of sand-dunes and naked clay hills add to the diversity of the coast line. The whole area has one thing in common—its general dryness and paucity of fresh water. The few perennial streams in the north and in Mekran are small in size and number except after the annual rain, when, for a few days, those in the south may become raging torrents such as the Habb, Hingol, Dasht, Nihing and Mashkel. Jheels too are few—Kushdil Khan and Saranan in the Quetta District, Zangi Nanar in Nushki, Sibi Jheel near Sibi, Sirunda in Las Belas make up about the sum total, while others, such as the Hamun-i-Mashkel, are temporary and get very salt and finally dry.

Plains :

Four large plains are included in our area ; (1) the Chagai, the huge plain (2,000–3,000 ft.) which lies west of Nushki to the Mirjawa Range on the Seistan boundary and between the Chagai Hills on the north and the Ras Koh to the south, some 200 by 80 miles.

(2) the Mashkel Basin, 1,700–2,300 ft. lying on the south side of the Ras Koh and extending from Kharan in the east to the Hamun-i Mashkel in the west ; ornithologically unknown and I believe is largely salt desert.

(3) Sibi Plain between the Kalat highlands, the Bugti country and the N. Sind frontier ; very flat and waterless except at flood times and mostly very bare.

(4) Las Belas plain in the south, wedged in between hills on each side and the sea on the south.

Mountains :

The whole of the north east with Kalat is mountainous with valleys (4,000-5,000 ft.); many of the hills run up to 9,000-10,000 ft. while some—Khaliphath, Takatu and Zarghun in the Quetta District and Takht-i-Suleiman in the Fort Sandeman District top 11,000 ft. The higher hills, 8-10,000 ft., are clothed with briars, junipers, scrub, etc., while in the Ziarat District the juniper develops into genuine forest. The highest tops again are bare while at 7,000 ft. and below there is little tree growth, except where planted and watered, and much of it is very bare hillsides. Great changes have altered Quetta; in 1879 it was but a small village with few trees where now hundreds of gardens, orchards, plantations and roadside trees are spread over miles of what was bare land.

In the N.W. there is the isolated Chaga Range lying between the great Barechi Plain in Afghanistan and the Nuskhī Plain, south of this there is the isolated Ras Koh rising to over 9,000 ft. and dividing the latter from the Mashkel basin. Both these ranges are unexplored. From Kalat many ranges of hills run south almost parallel and then turn S.W. and finally west (Central Mekran Ranges), all being much broken up by passes and valleys while between the ranges lie plains and water courses with a certain amount of scrub jungle, tamarisk jungle and small cultivation with date palms. These ranges are about 5,000 ft., but become less high in the extreme south and west (2,000-3,000 ft.). The ranges of the Panjgur District and northward drain into the Mashkel basin, the rest of the Mekran waters drain towards the sea *via* the Nihing and Hingol rivers.

Climate :

In the north it is hot but tolerable about 5,000 ft., in summer. Very cold in midwinter with hard frosts and at the higher elevations snow. The whole of the Mekran is excessively hot in summer; in winter the Central Mekran warm by day and cold at nights, no snow; on the coast the night temperatures do not fall so low.

COMMENTS ON THE AVIFAUNA

The avifauna may be said to be almost entirely Palæarctic, with Indian extensions from Sind to the Sibi and Las Belas plains and to a certain extent up the valleys and along the coast, but the general absence of purely Indian forms is noteworthy. The only other Indian species are extensions of the Himalayan fauna into the mountains of the north-east. Of stragglers some are Indian, others Palæarctic.

That there is no clear-cut boundary between the Indian and Palæarctic faunas, I have already pointed out (Ibis, 1922, p. 532), the two faunas tailing off into each other over a considerable area from Sind to East Persia. The first barrier which limits the extension of Indian birds westward is the Desert of Thar and Parkar but quite a number of species have spread across or skirted it and so reached the Indus Valley and its canal systems in Sind. Here many drop out and the Khirthar Range and the desert country west of the Indus forms a barrier which they do not cross; a list of such species is given in the Ibis, 1922, p. 533, of which I need only quote a few examples such as *Acridotheres ginginianus*, *Laticilla burnesi*, *Prinia flaviventris*, *Anas pæcilorhyncha*, *Inocotus papillosus*, etc. Others again by skirting south of the Khirthar have no hills but only almost waterless desert to cross ere Karachi is reached 110 miles distant. Here a certain number of Indian forms are found which I have been unable to trace further west, that is I could not find them in the Habb Valley nor has any one met with them in the Mekran. Such are:

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| I. | <i>Cisticola cursor.</i> | <i>Pericrocotus peregrinus.</i> |
| | <i>Turdoides terricolor.</i> | <i>Rhiphidura aureola.</i> |
| | <i>Orthotomus sutorius.</i> | <i>Temenuchus pagodarum.</i> |
| | <i>Ploceus philippinus.</i> | <i>Ænopopelia tranquebarica.</i> |
| | <i>Ploceus manyar.</i> | |

Quite a number of species however reach the Habb Valley (1) and penetrate into Las Balas (2).

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| II. | (2) <i>Corvus splendens zugmayeri.</i> | (2) <i>Pyrrhuloxia grisea siccata.</i> |
| | (2) <i>Dendrocitta rufa pallida.</i> | (2) <i>Thannobia fulvicata cambayensis.</i> |
| | (2) <i>Argya caudata caudata.</i> | (1) <i>Hirundo smithi filifera.</i> |
| | (1) <i>Prinia inornata.</i> | (2) <i>Psittacula torquata.</i> |
| | (1) <i>Franklinia buchanani.</i> | (2) <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus.</i> |

- (2) *Lanius schach erythronotus*. (2) *Ardeola grayi*.
 (2) *Lanius excubitor lahtora*. (2) *Dendrocygna javanica*
 (1) *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
 pallidus. (2) *Cursorius coromandelicus*.
 Acridotheres tristis. (2) *Esacus recurvirostris*.
 (1) *Mirafra erythroptera sindiana*. (1) *Sypheotides indica*
 Calandrella craytal adamsi. (1) *Coturnix coromandelicus*.
 Galerida cristata chendoola. (1) *Charadrius dubius jerdoni*
 Dicrurus macrocerus.

The four unnumbered extend to a certain extent outside Las Belas. Other Indian species again find no obstacle to limit their distribution in the Mekran and are found right through to Persia. Such are :—

- III. *Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis*. *Merops orientalis beludschicus*.
Lanius vittatus. *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*.
Saxicola caprata bicolor. *Dryobates scindianus*.
Gymnorhis xanthocollis
 transfuga. *Coracias benghalensis*.
Uroloncha malabarica. *Athene brama indica*.
Cinnyris asiatica brevirostris. *Butastur teesa*.
Streptopelia cambayensis. *Lobivanellus indicus aigneri*.
Passer domesticus indicus. *Francolinus pondicerianus*.

These two lists, which are composed from facts so far as we know them, do not of course pretend to finality and no doubt when our knowledge of birds in the Mekran is further increased, additions will be made to list II and some from list II will be added to list III.

In list III it will be noticed that all these birds are species which can exist without forest, jungle, cultivation, swamps, etc., and are in fact birds which can exist in desert scrub jungle such as is found throughout the Mekran.

Turning now to the north there are a number of 'Indian plains' species which occur in the Sibi Plain; but it would serve no useful purpose to list them as the list could not be anything like complete since this plain has been very poorly worked ornithologically, moreover there is little or nothing to limit the extension of many species from Sind to the Sibi District. A certain number may however be said to have extended up out of the plain into the hills and to have a status more defined than a straggler and are resident or summer visitors.

- Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis*. *Cinnyris asiatica brevirostris*.
Saxicola caprata bicolor. *Merops orientalis beludschicus*.
Saxicola macrohyncha. *Dryobates scindianus*.
Uroloncha malabarica. *Milvus govinda*.
Lanius schach erythronotus. *Athene brama indica*.
Lanius vittatus. *Lobivanellus indicus*.
Anthus rufulus. *Streptopelia cambayensis*.
Hirundo filifera. *Francolinus pondicerianus*.
Dicrurus macrocerus. *Francolinus francolinus*.

Others not included in this list are at present best classed as stragglers.

It strikes one immediately how very similar is this list to the list of those species which are found throughout the Mekran; in fact only three species *Saxicola macrohyncha*, *Anthus rufulus* and *Milvus govinda* do not occur in one or the other of the foregoing lists and it is quite possible that they have been overlooked there, the two last being resident at Karachi. I think the reason of the extension of these birds into the valleys of North Baluchistan is the same as it is in the Mekran; they find in the dry valleys at moderate elevations with their sparse scrub jungle, a habitat very similar to that which they are accustomed to in the plains.

Altogether I consider that 55 species may be said to be extensions of the Indian plains fauna; in the north there are 39 such extensions; of these about eight are resident and ten summer visitors to the valleys up to about 5,000 feet, the rest only to the Sibi Plain; and all of these except ten occur in the Mekran.

In the south 25 have extended into Las Belas and in a few cases beyond, while 16 more have extended their distribution right through to Persia; of all these 24 are also found in the north. Rare stragglers are omitted.

But beyond the 'Plains extensions' and stragglers we have in the north-east a further element which may be called an 'Himalayan extension' and as such I class 13 species while others, which certainly occur in the Himalayas

and may well have come thence, are spread over a far wider area than is implied under this heading and are omitted. Some of these are confined as breeding species practically to the juniper forest area of Ziarat and northwards, while others extend to the juniper scrub of the higher hills further west while two or three reach the Kalat highlands and one, the *Suya*, reaches East Mekran and Kirthar. In an excellent paper (Ibis, 1909) Whitehead and Magrath gave an account of the birds of Kohat and Kurram Valley and therein they enumerate all the Himalayan extensions which I now list for Baluchistan except one, *Parus rufonuchalis*, but in addition they were able to list no less than 40 odd Himalayan birds which have not been found within our limits. If one had an equally good paper on South Waziristan no doubt a good many, though fewer, Himalayan birds would find a place therein, and so we come to North-East Baluchistan with 13, Kalat highland with two or three and East Mekran with one.

The following I class 'Himalayan extensions':—

<i>Ianthocincla lineata.</i>	<i>Emberiza stewardii.</i>
<i>Parus rufonuchalis.</i>	<i>Phylloscopus indicus.</i>
<i>Egithaliscus leucogenys.</i>	<i>Suya crinigera.</i>
<i>Egithaliscus concinna.</i>	<i>Myiophoneus temmincki.</i>
<i>Sitta kashmiriensis.</i>	<i>Picus squamatus.</i>
<i>Certhia himalayana.</i>	<i>Accipter melanoschistos.</i>
<i>Carpodacus grandis.</i>	

RACES PECULIAR TO BALUCHISTAN

Only one *Ianthocincla lineata ziaratensis* is so far as we know entirely peculiar; two other birds have been described from British Baluchistan, viz., *Corvus splendens zugmayeri*, and *Lobivanellus indicus aignerii*, of these the latter extends to Persia, etc., on the one hand and to Sind on the other, and the former to Sind. The Sunbird, Little Green Bee-eater and Yellow-throated Sparrow were described from over the Persian boundary, the *Suya* from the Sind boundary.

STATISTICS

381 species are listed with 34 other additional races. Of these 51 may be said to be resident in the north and 59 resident in the south, and showing the diversity between these two areas only 14 are entirely resident in north and south. Again in the north 52 are summer visitors which in the south are passage migrants or winter visitors, whereas in Mekran there are only three summer visitors (*Glareola pratincola*, *Saxicola caprata* and *Merops persicus*) while two more are doubtfully classed as such and an additional two are occasional 'rain' visitors. Many of these summer visitors to the north, are augmented by passage migrants going further north still to Afghanistan, Turkestan, etc., are passage migrants in the south from overseas which come and go by what I have called the Arabian route (Ibis, 1922, p. 531) from and to their winter quarters in Africa. Among such for instance are *Agrobates familiaris*, *Sylvia cinerea*, *Hippolais anguida*, *Muscicapa striata*, *Monticola saxatilis*, *Lanius phanicuroides*, *Coracias garrula*, *Merops apiaster* and *persicus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Milvus migrans*, etc. and it is just the fringe of this movement which is to be seen in autumn in Lower Sind.

One can hardly put into statistics the winter visitors and passage migrants as in many cases a species which in the north is a passage migrant is also to a small extent a winter visitor and as soon as the highlands of Kalat are passed it becomes more and more a winter visitor pure and simple as one proceeds south or to a lower elevation. Suffice it to say that over 150 species fall into this category.

49 species I class as stragglers in so much as their claim to inclusion in the avifauna rests on but few and sporadic records, though I think it is probable that quite a few will be found, when the avifauna has been more thoroughly worked, to have an annual status. Of these 23 in the north are from the Palæarctic area and 12 from the Indian region and in the Mekran 9 are from the Palæarctic area and 2 from the Indian region while 3 more *Falco concolor*, *Phenicopterus minor* and *Puffinus tenuirostris* do not come under either of these headings while some others are doubtful and omitted.

In conclusion it is obvious there is much more yet to be learnt concerning the distribution and status alone of Baluchi birds; the country has been but

scratched. The Quetta District and Kalat have naturally been best worked, the Mekran coast and Central Mekran a bad second, and the Sibi Plain fairly touched; the Mashkel Basin, Nushki Plain and its hills not at all, and the same may be said of the Marri and Bugti country, while large areas in the north-east between Ziarat and Fort Sandeman and the Afghan Frontier have not been worked.

My best thanks are due to Mr. N. B. Kinnear for much help at all times both in India and at the British Museum; to Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen D.S.O., for additional notes to his excellent paper on the Quetta District, to the late Mr. W. D. Cumming for giving me all his notes on the Mekran and Quetta Districts, to Mr. J. E. B. Hotson, I.C.S., for placing at my disposal all his diaries and collections, and to Lieut. E. E. J. L. Searight, M.C., for his MSS. notes from Fort Sandeman and Loralai Districts.

[Measurements are in millimeters; wing lengths are maximal, i.e. not on the curve, bill lengths are maximal from frontal bone. The order followed is that of the 'Hand-list of the Birds of India.']

Corvus corax laurencei Hume. The Raven.

The exact status of the two Ravens is not known, which fact only shows that there is much yet to be learnt about even our commoner birds in Baluchistan. Marshall states that *corax* is very common at all seasons and breeds in the mountains round Quetta (which statement Meinertzhagen confirms) whence he obtained a nest with six eggs on March 24. St. John says it is commoner in winter at Quetta than is *ruficollis* and that many nest in the Khojak; Swinhoe recorded it as common at Kandahar and obtained specimens in February and early April. St. John, myself and others all agree that this is *the* Raven which swarms in the Quetta Valley in the winter and roosts like flocks of Rooks in the trees about the town. In August too I saw Ravens there which appeared to be of this form, and found it again common along the Ziarat Road in September. It occurs in the Sibi Plains in winter and Ball found it abundant in the Suleimans in July.

As regards the south of Baluchistan, our knowledge is less complete; Hume states that he saw it at Gwadar in the Mekran in February; W. D. Cumming thinks he saw it near Ormarra in January, while at Charbar he says a larger Raven arrives in October and spends the winter. Although Hotson noted 'Ravens and Crows' in many places in Central and Coastal Mekran, all his specimens were of *ruficollis* as were Zugmayer's. Records borne out by specimens are therefore lacking from any part of this area. One cannot however assume, as Dr. Laubmann has, that this Raven is a *mountain* form as it is quite resident and breeds abundantly in the plains of the Punjab.

Corvus corax ruficollis Less. The Brown-necked Raven.

Delmé Radcliffe says that the Brown-necked Raven is common in the Quetta Valley in winter but that there are none there in summer. Swinhoe remarked that it was common everywhere between Quetta and Kandahar; there is a specimen from Chaman in the Karachi Museum. St. John considered it commoner in summer in Kalat than in winter. Meinertzhagen notes it as an uncommon winter visitor to the Quetta Valley. The status of this bird in North Baluchistan clearly wants further elucidation.

There can be no doubt, however, that this is *the* Raven of Central and Coastal Mekran, as all who have collected there testify. It is resident and Hotson found it breeding on March 13 in a hole in a cliff. It is the common scavenger round camps and is familiar and fearless.

The status of the two Ravens in Baluchistan should be easily cleared up; the questions are:—Does *ruficollis* breed in N. Baluchistan or is it only a scarce winter visitor; does *laurencei* occur in the Mekran at all, if so, does it breed; and what are the Ravens of S. Kalat and Jhalawan?

As already pointed out (Ibis, 1922, p. 535) I cannot recognize *infumatus* as a good race; the Brown-necked Raven varies much in size, 5 Mekran females measure W. 360–372, B. 61–69.

Corvus corone orientalis Eversm.

One of a pair was obtained by Meinertzhagen, as he informs me, at Quetta on December 3, 1913. ♂ wing, 357 mm.

Corvus frugilegus L. The Rook.

The Rook is a winter visitor in flocks and in variable numbers each year to the Quetta Valley and districts north to Kandahar arriving about mid-November (earliest 6th) and leaving in March. Swinhoe records them as late as April 21 at Kandahar. I am unable to recognize the race *tschusii*.

Corvus cornix sharpei has as yet not been detected within our actual limits but it occurs at Kandahar.

Corvus monedula sœmmeringii Fisher (—collaris auct). The Kashmir Jackdaw.

Among the Rooks which visit the Quetta-Kandahar Districts are to be seen occasional Jackdaws; they appear to come and depart with their larger relatives. I have examined two birds of the year in the Quetta Museum which showed no trace of the whitish neck collar, but this is not unusual I think in immature birds of the race.

Corvus splendens zugmayeri Laubm. The Sind House-Crow.

Orn. Monatsber, 1913, p. 93, Las Belas.

The Sind House Crow is common and resident at Sibi, but does not appear to have penetrated into the hills.

In S. Baluchistan it extends from Sind only into the Las Belas Plain; I found it common and resident in the Lower Habb Valley and Zugmayer found it throughout the villages of Las Belas. It is absent from Ormarra and the sheer hills west of the Las Belas Plain appears to form a barrier to it; Hotson however, believes that he saw it at Ornach and Korak in the Hingol Valley, N. W. of this barrier; this wants confirming.

The type came from Las Belas and this race is paler on the pale parts of the plumage than the typical race from Bengal, it is not, however, smaller as Dr. Laubmann thought; W. 255-290, in the typical race 256-294 mm.; a large series of both measured.

It occurs at Muscat in Arabia where it must have been introduced.

Pica pica bactriana Bp. The Kashmir Magpie.

'Dazd' (=thief.), 'Shakuk' (Brahui).

The Magpie's distribution in Baluchistan is practically that of the forest. From Kalat northwards and eastwards it occurs very commonly in the more wooded hills such as round Kalat, Mastung, Pishin, Ziarat, Khojak and the hills round Quetta; in the valleys it is naturally scarcer and in the Quetta Valley only occasionally seen, though a few pairs still manage to breed there, but at one time seemed to be at least in winter commoner. Southwards from Kalat Town, it extends to Harbol, Surab to Kalguli on the Panjgur road, and Chuttok, west of Khozdar on the Las Belas Road.

It breeds in junipers, pistachios, etc., and Marshall records fresh eggs on May 15, Meinertzhagen as early as April 10, Barnes gives March and April as the laying months, and no doubt, the time differs according to elevation. Where common, it becomes tame and fearless round houses and evening flights to favourite roosts are to be seen at sunset.

Dendrooitta rufa pallida (Blyth.) The Tree-pie.

'Khata Khan'.

The Tree-pie extends only into Las Belas where it would appear to be not very common except perhaps in the Pabb Hills whence Mr. Ludlow has eggs taken on April 30 and where too Mr. Wilson has seen it. It very likely may occur in suitable spots at the foot of the Khirthar Range in the Sibi Plain.

Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax (L.) The Red-billed Chough.

The Chough is naturally a bird of the highest hills, where it breeds. In winter some at any rate descend to the valleys of N. Baluchistan, such as the Quetta valley, earliest September 27, and Kandahar Plain, where they often associate with Ravens. It probably breeds in all the highest hills round Quetta as it certainly does at Ziarat and Kach (8,000-10,000 ft.). Meinertzhagen records a nest on Takatu on May 10. I saw a large flock at Ziarat in September following the plough like Rooks do.

Baluchi and Himalayan Choughs run large as a rule, but I am not quite sure that the race *himalayanus* is distinct enough to be recognized.

Pyrrhocorax graculus (L.)—*alpinus* auct. The Yellow-billed or Alpine Chough.

The status of the Alpine Chough is by no means certain. Natives told Marshall that two kinds of Chough occur and he thought he saw this species at 10,000 ft. in May. Mr. J. N. Cumming says that he has seen it at the tops of Zarghun and Takatu also in May. Meinertzhagen however, failed to find it either there or on Khaliphath or Murdan. Murray states that on his expedition to the Afghan frontier in 1880 *eight* specimens were obtained in March and May, between Quetta and Kandahar by Hutchins and Babington Peile. No specimens appear to exist from Baluchistan and there are no recent records, though there is no reason why this bird should not occur.

Parus major intermedius (Zar.) The Afghan Grey-Tit

This, the palest of the Indian Grey Tits, is resident and breeds in all the higher wooded mountains such as Harboi, the Khojak, Zarghun, Takatu and the Ziarat District, etc. It breeds early on the Khojak where Barnes found incubated eggs on April 10; Meinertzhagen records nests on May 3 five feet up in a juniper stump and another in a mulberry on the 25th. In winter it moves down, partially at all events, into the lower valleys and is at that time common in the gardens of the Quetta Valley, etc., but so far has not been noted in the Sibi Plain. Early in October I found it pretty common still in the Ziarat juniper forest consorting with other Tits and Creepers and noted it was feeding on caterpillars and orange berries of a bush so common there.

Besides being paler this race runs a trifle larger than the other Indian races. ♂ W., 73-78; T. 63-72.

In the list of the 'Birds of the Indian Empire' Baluchistan is included in the range of *Parus palustris korejewi*. I know of no record of any Marsh Tit in our area.

Parus rufonuchalis rufonuchalis Blyth. The Simla Black Tit.

In the juniper forests of the Ziarat District I found this to be the next commonest Tit to *Æg. leucogenys*, sometimes in pairs, sometimes joined up in bands with other Tits, etc., roving through the forest. Although it is known to breed there, there are no records of its nesting habits. It appears to be practically resident seldom descending to the lower valleys. I found it to subsist in October on small seeds, beetles and the seeds of the orange berries referred to above and it has regular hammering places on boughs of trees whither it takes the berries to extract the seeds. It appears to be confined in Baluchistan to the juniper forest area proped in the N. E. corner. Birds from Ziarat are not separable from typical *rufonuchalis*. *P. melanolophus* is recorded by Radcliffe as common at Ziarat in summer: specimens which he obtained are in the British Museum and are undoubtedly examples of *rufonuchalis* and he admits *in litt* that he must have confused the two species.

Ægithaliscus concinna iredalei S. Baker. The Red-headed Tit.

Marshall records that he saw a pair at Ziarat in May; Meinertzhagen saw a large party at the same place on July 20. Apparently resident in very small numbers in the Ziarat juniper forest area. I did not meet with it there in September.

Ægithaliscus leucogenys (Moore.) The White-cheeked Tit.

Within our area this long-tailed Tit is only found in the forest area between Ziarat and Fort Sandeman. It is apparently quite resident; Radcliffe obtained it there in June and Col. Venning in Fort Sandeman District in February. In September and October I found it numerically the most abundant of all the Tits in the juniper forest at Ziarat (8,500 ft.) roving about in parties of 8-12, sometimes associated with other Tits and Creepers but it was a bird exclusively of junipers which it assiduously searches for caterpillars and insects moving in a band from tree to tree much as others of the genus do. It apparently can withstand the cold of winter at this elevation as it has not been observed in the lower valleys.

The type comes from 'The Woods of Balu Chughur' which is on the Kunar River, N. E. of Jellalabad whence I have seen no specimens; but Baluchi birds seem to be greyer and paler, not so greenish-olive on the upper parts, and have paler crowns than Gilgit examples but without topo types one cannot differentiate any races. ♂ W., 57, ♀ 53-54. Iris pale straw. Legs and feet pinkish brown.

Lanthocincla lineata ziaratensis, Ticehurst. The Streaked Laughing Thrush.

Bull B.O.C. xli, p. 55, 1920—Ziarat, North Baluchistan.

This Streaked Laughing Thrush is found only in N.E. Baluchistan where at 8,000 feet it is locally fairly common. It is a characteristic bird of bushy nullahs, gardens, etc., rather than the pure forest. Marshall records it from the hills above Harnai, it is common round Ziarat and Col. Venning obtained it at Torkhan in the Fort Sandeman District. In its habits I did not notice any difference to those of the Himalayan bird. In the *Bull. B.O.C.*, xli, p. 55. I separated the Baluchistan bird as a distinct race; it is paler greyer with paler, yellower markings on the breast than even the Gilgit race. W., 80-85.

Argya carlii (Blyth.) The Striated Babbler.

According to Mr. J. N. Cumming the Striated Babbler occurs at Sibi and breeds there in February. This may well be so and the Sibi Plain is the only part of Baluchistan it is likely to occur in.

Argya caudata caudata (Dumont). The Common Babbler.

This is the race of Common Babbler which is found resident in the Sibi plain (but not recorded in the Bolan Pass) and in Las Belas. I have this race from the Lower Habb Valley and by the courtesy of Dr. Laubmann I have been able to examine Zugmayer's specimens obtained in the Mekran. Though these were recorded as *huttoni* all are undoubtedly of the typical race they come from Las Belas, Balaro, west of Hingol River and from the Basul River; all these birds are in a poor state of preservation but they are too small (W., 79-83) for *huttoni* and too yellowish on the upper parts—west of the Basul River this race probably grades into *huttoni*, one that Blanford obtained at Gutader appeared to be intermediate, but specimens from Bahu Kelat, Charbar and Jask appear to be *huttoni*.

Argya caudata huttoni (Blyth). The Afghan Babbler.

'Pinkulag' (Baluchi), 'Susu' (Persian).

Murray records that he obtained three at Quetta and two at Gulistan in about 1880; if this is so, the status of the Babbler must have altered of recent years, as I know of no later record of it in the Quetta Valley though Betham got specimens in the district. St. John recorded that it was common 'everywhere', but he was referring to Kandahar and Kalat. Ball records what is probably this race from the Suleimans but a specimen from Fort Sandeman in which district it is fairly common and resident on the scrub-covered hills is nearer *eclipes*, which appears to be a large, dark, heavily streaked race from Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Campbellpur (south to Kohat?). *Huttoni* occurs in South Kalat and thence its distribution may be traced south to Jhelawan and the Khirthar and west through Central Mekran to Persian Baluchistan. Replaced by *caudata* in the Sibi Plain, Las Belas and Coastal Makran to Basul R. Eleven specimens examined. W., 85-88.5; B., 21.5-24.5.

Hypocolius ampelinus, Bp. The Grey Hypocolius.

A rare straggler; one was obtained by Duke at Nal in S. Kalat on April 26, 1877; at Jast in Persian Makran, W. D. Cumming saw two on May 1, 1909 and on December 16, 1920, a tired bird came into his compound to drink at Charbar.

Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis (Gould.) 'Bulbul'. The White-eared Bulbul.

In North Baluchistan the White-eared Bulbul is not common above 5,000 feet; below this it is pretty common and resident in groves, gardens and scrub jungle north to Kandahar. In the Quetta valley it is said to be a migrant and not very abundant, arriving in April and leaving in November, it is however recorded in all months except January and February. It is no doubt, to a large extent an elevational migrant and in the Sibi plain it is very common and resident; it breeds at Kandahar in March and must be found too in Nushki District.

Below 5,000 ft. too throughout S. Kalat, Central and Coastal Makran, it is abundant from the Habb Valley to Persian Baluchistan. In Coastal Makran this bird nests in beams and rafters of buildings as well as in trees.

All birds examined from all over Baluchistan are, save one, of the typical race; this one bird from Mand on the Persian-Baluchi boundary, has the

yellow eyelids and darker under parts of *mesopotamica*; birds from S.W. Persia are of this latter race. Birds from Persian Baluchistan (Zarudny coll.), are however, typical *leucotis* so Dr. Hartert informs me; where the boundary between the two races lies is yet to be determined.

Pycnonotus leucotis humii (Oates). Hume's Bulbul.

There is in the Quetta Museum a locally obtained specimen of this Bulbul which Mr. Kinnear has identified. I am not at all clear about the status of this race.—Other North Baluchi Bubbles I have seen appear to me to be indistinguishable from the typical race.

Sitta kashmiriensis Brooks. Brooks's Nuthatch.

The only record is from Shingar in the Zhob Valley where Col. Venning obtained specimens on July 7 and June 8 now in the British Museum. Probably this Nuthatch is resident in small numbers in the extreme north-east. I searched the Ziarat forests in vain for this bird nor has any one else met with it there.

Sitta neumayer tephronota Sharpe. The Eastern Rock Nuthatch.

The Rock Nuthatch is common enough and resident in rocky valleys of the mountainous parts especially where there are streams. From Fort Sandeman District in the N.E. it is distributed throughout N. Baluchistan as far as Kalat Town at any rate, and probably further south where hills are high enough though there are no records. In winter it descends to lower elevations. It breeds early; on the Khojak, Barnes records nests in March and April and Betham at Quetta has found incubated eggs on April 2; the foundation of one nest he examined measured 30 by 18 inches; a robbed nest may be repaired and utilized even twice. The number of eggs varies from 5 to 8, Murray records it nesting in trunks of trees as well as on rocks in the Khojak!

Dicrurus macrocerus macrocerus Vieill. The Black Drongo.

'Kolaho' or 'Gohalo' (Brahui).

Where found the Drongo is apparently resident or only a local migrant. In N. Baluchistan its distribution needs further working out. Barnes obtained a bird on May 27 at Chaman 'in breeding state' and remarks that it is very uncommon. St. John says it is not uncommon at Quetta and on the plateau, but does not reach Kandahar. However I do not know of any recent records of it in this district, to which it must be I think a straggler. Lieut. Searight has recently observed a few on passage at Fort Sandeman about the middle of May. It is certainly common enough in the Sibi Plains and penetrates the hills as far, for instance, as Harnai.

In S. Baluchistan it is resident and the distribution so far as is known is as follows:—Starting from the Sind frontier it is common enough in the Habb Valley and throughout the plains of Las Belas; to the north it reaches Khozdar (4,000 ft.) in Jhalawan, to the west it is common in the valley of the Mashkai (3,200 ft.) and reaches as far at all events as the Rodkan District. At Ormarra on the coast Cumming only met with it once. (October 21, 1901). West of long., 64° E. I have no knowledge of it save that Zarudny lists it from Persian Mekran. Hotson however did not meet with it there.

Certhia himalayana limes Meinertz. The Himalayan Tree-Creeper.

The Tree-Creeper is another bird which so far as we know occurs chiefly in the juniper area of N. E. corner. It is resident but moves down to the lower valleys or even perhaps to the plains in winter, at which season it occurs in the Quetta Valley. It is common in the juniper forests at Ziarat (8,000–9,000 ft.) and from there is found out to the N. E. frontier at Fort Sandeman, possibly it may breed in the Khojak too as Murray records it from Gulistan in August. In the autumn one or more may be met with with every roving band of Tits. Meinertzhagen (Ibis, 1920, p. 148) records the Ziarat bird as the typical race but later in the *Bull. B. O. C.*, xiii, p. 140–1 he gives reasons for separating it as a new race intermediate between *teniura* (Turkestan) and *himalayana*. I at first thought that the Ziarat birds were indistinguishable from Turkestan birds but a re-examination with further Turkestan specimens has led me to agree that the Baluchi bird is intermediate in colour between the two and just separable. The bills of Turkestan birds are rather longer than in the other

two forms but in *limes* only occasional birds exceed *himalayana* in bill length B., 18-25. (40 specimens in all examined.)

Tichodroma muraria (L.). The Wall Creeper.

The Wall Creeper is not uncommon in N. Baluchistan in winter; the records date from the end of October to the end of March. One obtained on March 31, is in breeding dress but there are no suggestions that it breeds within our area. It frequents the sides of ravines both in the hills and valleys and occurs as low down as 1,000 ft. in Bolan Pass near Sibi. St. John remarks that he often saw it frequenting mud walls. Unrecorded elsewhere.

The Wren (*Troglodytes t. neglectus*) is recorded in the *Fauna* (ed. ii) from the border hills of Baluchistan. I know of no record within our area, the nearest being from Safed Koh in Afghanistan.

Regulus regulus tristis (Pleske.) The Gold-Crest.

In the *Fauna* (ed. ii) a bird shot at Quetta in January is recorded as being nearer this race. I have been unable to trace the specimen, nor has it been recorded before.

Agrobates galactodes familiaris (Mènèt). The Grey-backed Warbler.

'Surtch Durnat', Baluchi.

The Grey-backed Warbler is not common in N. Baluchistan and rather local; it is no doubt mostly a passage migrant and though Meinertzhagen records one at Quetta as early as February 1, the majority appear to arrive and pass through about the last week in April according to Swinhoe, who obtained it then at Melkarez and Chaman. St. John considered it tolerably common in suitable places and obtained specimens in June at Zehur Kalat which must have been breeding and at Nal Kalat in the first week of May. It passes through the Quetta Valley again in August and September (earliest July 30), in small numbers. W. D. Cumming saw several pairs at Saranan on June 26, in tamarisks bordering the dried margins of the lake and at least one pair were feeding young in the vicinity.

In S. Baluchistan it is doubtless mostly a passage migrant; it has been noted in the valley of the Mashkai, Kohva District, on September 6, and at Ormarra on April 17 and October 11. Some however may overwinter as Hotson records several on December 1, at Nasirabad in the Nihing Valley. On the Perso-Baluch frontier it must breed as Hotson found it near Mand on May 28, and near Hong on July 1, at Charbar on the Perso-Makran coast. W. D. Cumming only notes it as a passage migrant from April 14 to May 5.

Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens (Jerd.) The Clamorous Reed Warbler.

This Reed Warbler in Baluchistan is both a summer visitor and a passage migrant. It is most noticeable on passage at the end of August and in September and it is apparently absent until April. However at Kushdil Khan and other suitable reed beds, as in the Lora River, a few pairs breed; thus St. John obtained it near Quetta on July 14, and at Kandahar on June 1, whilst Meinertzhagen found two nests with three and four eggs on June 1, near Quetta and a nest of young at Kushdil.

In the rest of Baluchistan the status is uncertain; at Sibi it certainly occurs in winter and may of course breed there too. There is no reason why it should not breed in the mangrove swamps on the Makran coast as W. D. Cumming found it breeding not uncommonly in such places at Jask in Persian Makran from early April to early May and found nests with two and three eggs. Duke obtained it at Nal in S. Kalat on May 10, but it might have been there on passage only. The rest of the records are scattered ones in winter when this bird is not necessarily found by water as Hotson obtained one out of a flock of Hutton's Babblers in scrub jungle.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi, Hart. The Great Reed Warbler.

Laubmann records that Zugmayer obtained one at Kalat on October 4, 1911. There is no other record for Baluchistan.

Acrocephalus dumetorum, Blyth. Blyth's Reed Warbler.

Blyth's Reed Warbler is probably not uncommon on passage but has been in the past so confused with other species or has been overlooked that its status



HILLS FROM THE QUETTA PLAIN WITH ORCHARDS.
HOME OF *Rhodospiza obsoleta*, *Kippolais rama*, ETC.



LOW BARE HILLS, SIND—LAS BELAS FRONTIER.
HOME OF *Ammodramus d. phœnicuroides*.



KHIRTHAR RANGE, SIND, BALUCHI FRONTIER
HOME OF *Emberiza strololata* AND 'SEE-SEE'



A 'TANGI' IN THE JUNIPER FOREST DOTTED WITH
WILD ROSE, ETC.
HOME OF *Serinus pusillus*, *Emberiza stewarti*.

cannot be made out. In the Quetta District Meinertzhagen obtained it on March 4, and there are two specimens in the Quetta Museum both obtained on August 31 (and both labelled *Hippolais pallida*) and another obtained on August 24 (labelled—*pallida* and then *Ac. agricola*!). Murray's records of *Acrocephalus streperus* from Nushki and Quetta very likely belong to this species.

St. John records that Duke got it at Nal Kalat on May 10; Hotson obtained it at Harbud, E. of Panjgur on April 28, and at Korak in the Hingol Valley on September 13.

Acrocephalus agricola agricola (Jerd.) Paddy-field Warbler.

Only recorded in N. Baluchistan on passage. Meinertzhagen says it passes through the Quetta Valley from the third week in August to the beginning of November and he obtained it at Chaman on April 16. Murray recorded it from Mach on March 16, and from Quetta and Kandahar. There is a specimen in the British Museum also obtained at Chaman on April 16, 1880. Though there are no records, this Warbler is certain to winter in the Sibi Jheels and perhaps elsewhere in Baluchistan. The only specimens I have seen from Baluchistan belong to the typical race.

Luscinola melanopogon mimica, Madaraz. The Moustached Sedge-Warbler.

Swinhoe obtained this Warbler at Kandahar on April 20, but Meinertzhagen is the only one who has met with it actually in Baluchistan and records that it is not uncommon in the few suitable localities, passing through in March and again in August and September. A few however stop to breed and he found three pairs and their nests—two at Beleli on the Lora on June 1 and 2, both with three eggs and one pair at Kuchlak on May 14, with four eggs. The nests were deep cup-shaped structures of dead reed-stalks situated in dense tangled sedge growing in a foot of water.

Franklinia buchani (Blyth.) The Rufous-fronted Wren-Warbler.

Though unlikely to occur in the hilly country, this Wren-Warbler, I ascertained, is resident in Habb Valley and may well be so in Las Belas and Sibi Plains. Further there are no records.

Laticilla burnesi (Blyth.) The Long-tailed Grass-Warbler.

This Grass-Warbler is quite likely to occur on the edge of the Sibi plain and is recorded from Pir Chowki at the entrance to the Bolan Pass by Murray.

Hippolais rama (Sykes.) Syke's Tree-Warbler.

To N. Baluchistan Syke's Tree-Warbler is a common but local summer visitor; it arrives early in April and many have departed by the end of August. Odd birds must winter in sheltered spots as there is one in the Quetta Museum obtained on January 21. It is a bird of the valleys and lower plains particularly frequenting hedges, gardens and tamarisk. Betham records many nests at Quetta on May 14, mostly with 4 eggs, sometimes 5; the nests very often in rose bushes, consist of twigs, grass, roots and fibres lined with wool and hair and sometimes feathers. Meinertzhagen found several nests at Khushdil on June 19, situated in tamarisks, from two to three feet up. Also recorded as breeding Quetta (Marshall), Chaman (Barnes) Kandahar (Swinhoe).

There is little information concerning this bird in S. Baluchistan where it should be not uncommon in winter or on passage. Duke obtained several at Nal Kalat in the end of April; W. D. Cumming informs me that it occurs in small numbers on the Makran coast in spring and autumn. Blanford met with it in Persian Baluchistan in March and April.

Hippolais pallida has been recorded by Meinertzhagen, Murray and Nicoll Cumming as occurring and breeding in N. Baluchistan the former mentioning specimens in the Quetta Museum. I have examined all the *Hippolais* in this Museum and none is *H. pallida*, three so labelled are in fact *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. Nor are there any specimens of *H. pallida* in the British Museum nor in Meinertzhagen's collection. I have examined all Blanford's Persian specimens in the British Museum and there are no *pallida* from any locality east of Bampur in Persian Baluchistan. It is retained in the *Fauna of British India* (2nd ed.), ii, p. 433 on very slender evidence.

Hippolais langiuda (H. and E.) Upcher's Tree-Warbler.

This Warbler is a local summer visitor in quite small numbers to the hills of N. Baluchistan. Swinhoe obtained one at Chaman on April 28, 1881, and Meinertzhagen records that he found two pairs breeding on the east slope of Takatu on May 31, and on Speredragha on June 11 near Quetta at 7,500-8,000 ft.; the nests were in small bushes 12 to 18 inches from the ground and in each case held 3 eggs. It arrives early in April.

It must be a passage migrant through S. Baluchistan but the only record is from Nundera in Jhalawan where Hotson obtained it on September 8; Blanford obtained it at Magas on the Persian side on March 28 and he called it far from rare in wooded ravines in Persian Baluchistan.

Hippolais scita (Evers) = *caligata* auct. The Booted Tree-Warbler.

Distribution not clear and very few records. St. John says it is not uncommon in suitable places in Kalat and there are specimens of Duke's in the British Museum obtained at Nal Kalat in the last week of April and one from Kandahar on May 12. Meinertzhagen obtained it at Quetta on April 3, and October 2 and 4. Scarce passage migrant.

Sylvia communis icterops (Ménétr.) The Common White-throat.

Murray records the Common White-throat from Quetta on May 11, Nushki and from Chaman on April 13. Meinertzhagen noticed a family party near Ziarat on July 24, at 7,500 ft. and in the following year on Takatu at 7,000 ft. found a nest in a thorn bush containing 2 eggs and secured the parent for identification. I saw a few at Ziarat from September 25 to October 3 by which date all had departed. It is evidently a scarce and a local summer visitor. On the Makran coast it is a spring and autumn passage migrant but not common.

Sylvia hortensis crassirostris, Cretz. The Orphean Warbler.

'Gaz Burruk', Brahui.

This fine songster is much more of a hill bird than *Hippolais rama*. Meinertzhagen found it arriving in the hills round Quetta late in April and most depart by the end of August. It breeds commonly between 7,000 and 10,000 ft. He found several nests on Takatu between May 31, and June 10, containing 4 to 5 eggs; the nests made of coarse grass with fine grass lining were usually in briar or almond bushes 3 ft. from the ground. Betham found it breeding commonly at 7,000 ft. and records young hatched by May 13, and fresh eggs as late as June 21; he describes the nests as made of bents and twigs and lined with hair. It evidently breeds at Fort Sandeman. Barnes recorded it as common at Chaman, Radcliffe and St. John knew of it breeding near Ziarat. I saw a straggler near Ziarat as late as September 28. There are no records in S. Baluchistan where it surely must occur in winter.

Sylvia nana nana. (H. and E.) The Desert Warbler.

The Desert Warbler is rare or else overlooked in N. Baluchistan; Watson obtained it at Sanzal and according to Murray Hutchings got it at Nushki. Murray implies that he obtained it in the Bolan Pass and it is quite likely to occur there and is sure to be found in the foothills bordering the Sibi Plain at least in winter.

In Central and Coastal Makran it is sparsely distributed in suitable places and so far as I know is a winter visitor as it is in Sind; the latest date for it is April 1. However Stuart Baker (*Fauna B. I.*, vol. ii, p. 449) states that this Warbler breeds in the hills of Baluchistan adjoining to Sind, the evidence being some eggs sent to him second hand said to have been taken there at the end of April. I think we must await more conclusive evidence before we accept this species as resident.

Sylvia althea (Hume) Hume's White-throat.

Hume's White-throat is a summer visitor to the Juniper forests of N. E. Baluchistan. Marshall recorded that this species is common in the Ziarat forests in May where Meinertzhagen also found it in family parties from June to the end of August. There is a fledgling in the Quetta Museum as well as an adult. It must breed too in the Fort Sandeman district as Col. Venning obtained one there on June 7; this specimen is in the British Museum and is labelled *affinis*. It very likely breeds on Harboi in Kalat where Hotson obtained an adult in moult

on August 16. Most had evidently gone from Ziarat by the end of September when I thought I saw one or two. Except for one obtained at Quetta by Meinertzhagen on April 1, there are no records of this bird on passage and it is unrecorded in the rest of Baluchistan.

***Sylvia curruca affinis*.** Blyth. The Lesser Whitethroat.

The status of this Lesser Whitethroat wants working out as older records are not always reliable. Barnes records it as common at Chaman; St. John obtained it at Kandahar on July 8, and this and one from Quetta on May 13, are in the British Museum, where there is also one from Fort Sandeman on April 5. In the Quetta Museum there is a local bird obtained on April 23, but one labelled as this race from Ziarat on August 14 I consider to be *althæa*. On the other hand, Betham has recorded that a few remain near Quetta to breed and that he obtained a nest with four eggs on May 13, and found a nest with four young on May 31. The nests were in low thorn bushes. In answer to my enquiry Gen. Betham tells me that he thinks he shot a bird and that it was identified at the Bombay Museum; he adds that the nests were in low hills near Quetta. I found this species common at Sibi on October 8, where doubtless it winters. In Kalat Duke recorded it as common at Nal at the end of April and there is a specimen thence in the British Museum. There is little information in the Makran; Cumming tells me he met with it at Ormarra in spring and autumn on several occasions and saw many on August 29. Blanford met with it commonly on the Dasht River, Bahu Kalat and elsewhere near the Persian boundary in winter. Two specimens obtained by Hoson on the Persian side near Charbar and Pahrah are very pale and match with birds from Zaidam, Alashan, and others obtained by Prevalsky in Turkestan and are *halimodendri*.

Sylvia curruca minula (Hume.) The Small Whitethroat.

This race appears to pass through N. Baluchistan on spring and autumn passage during March and April and in October to the third week in November. Meinertzhagen records that he obtained two in the Ziarat juniper forests on July 21 and 24, and saw several others. Unfortunately these specimens were left at the Quetta Museum where, when I went through the collection, I could only find one of them; and this, though labelled *minula*, was certainly *althæa*. For the present the suggestion that this race breeds there must I think be put as doubtful. In the Sibi Plain it occurs in winter.

In the Makran this is a common winter visitor up to mid-April affecting bushes and kandi trees by water courses.

***Phylloscopus collybita tristis*,** Blyth. The Siberian Chiffchaff.

In N. Baluchistan the Siberian Chiffchaff is chiefly a bird of passage arriving in the last days of September and passing through again at the end of February and beginning of March; during these times it is common. A few however certainly withstand the winter in the Quetta Valley as I saw one there on December 12, (when the ground was frozen hard) and there is a specimen in the Quetta Museum obtained in January. It is common at Sibi and no doubt winters there; Swinhoe obtained it in winter too at Kandahar.

In S. Baluchistan it is a winter visitor in fair numbers remaining there till early April while St. John obtained one at Nal Kalat on April 26. W. D. Cumming noted it at Ormarra on spring and autumn passage chiefly haunting the *Parkinsonia aculiata*.

Phylloscopus collybita collybita (Vieill.) The European Chiffchaff.

Meinertzhagen obtained a bird at Quetta on July 28 which we are unable to separate from the typical race; it is much greener above than *tristis* and has some yellow on the breast. It is already fully moulted into winter dress and it is probably a waif which had failed to breed.

***Phylloscopus indicus*,** Blyth. The Olivaceous Willow-Warbler.

The only records of this Willow-Warbler are from the Ziarat juniper forests where it is a fairly common summer visitor from 8,000 ft. up; it probably does not occur outside the forest area. Radcliffe and Meinertzhagen ascertained that it certainly breeds there preferring secluded ravines by water. All had departed when I was at Ziarat on September 25. On passage Meinertzhagen obtained it at Quetta on September 29, and it is recorded from Nushki in May. Radcliffe

says it is a restless little bird and frequently utters its call-note—'chick chick chick.' This is another of those species which appear to skip over vast areas of the Indian plains when on passage without halting.

As I have already pointed out, *Sylvia indica* of Jerdon used for this bird cannot be as it is preoccupied by *Sylvia indica* of Vieillot. Fortunately however Blyth described it independently as *Phylloscopus indicus* (*J.A.S.B.*, 1845, p.593).

Phylloscopus nitidus nitidus Blyth. The Green Willow-Warbler.

Only recorded as a passage migrant and only in the north. I saw it in small numbers in the Ziarat forests from September 27 onwards and Meinertzhagen noted it at Quetta in small parties up to November 8. It probably does not winter anywhere in our area. It has been obtained at Kandahar, April 18, and October 30. I think it probable that Murray's record of *Ph. humei* from Gulistan really refers to *nitidus*. These Willow-Warblers were not well understood when he wrote and no one else has met with *humei* since; one thought to be this in Quetta Museum is *nitidus*.

Phylloscopus neglectus neglectus Hume. The Plain Willow-Warbler.

A common summer visitor breeding in the juniper forest area of Ziarat. After the breeding season it scatters out into the lower valleys before departure and enters the Quetta Valley by mid-August; however I found it still the commonest small bird in the juniper forest on October 7. Odd ones overwinter in sheltered places as Meinertzhagen obtained one at Quetta on February 8. Murray records it from Pir Chowki in the Bolan and from Sagee beyond Quetta in May; if correct, they were doubtless on passage. It may breed in Kalat as Hotsen obtained two on Harboi early in August in moult.

In S Baluchistan it is a winter visitor in small numbers.

Scolecercus inquietus striatus (Brooks.) The Streaked Scrub-Warbler.

This Scrub-Warbler is not uncommon though locally distributed throughout the length and breadth of Baluchistan affecting more particularly low scrub bushes on hill sides. In summer it is found up to 9,000 ft. and I have seen it at this height in October and it is probably quite resident. It occurs, but less commonly perhaps, in the plains at moderate elevations but not so low as the Sibi Plain; thus Barnes found it not uncommon at Chaman (4,500 ft.) where it breeds in March. Meinertzhagen in the hills round Quetta found several nests from May 20 to June 7, containing 4 to 6 eggs, the nests being well concealed in thorn bushes and just off the ground. I found family parties of this bird working their way along a dry river-bed feeding in lavender bushes, etc., at Ziarat. Williams records a cuckoo's egg in a nest of this species.

Throughout Kalat, and the hills of Central and Southern Makran this Warbler is common and it occurs at all events in winter as low down as 600 ft.

Suya crinigera striatula (Hume.) The Long-tailed Hill-Warbler.

The Long-tailed Hill-Warbler though very local is found throughout the hilly districts of Baluchistan from the Suleimans and Fort Sandeman District in the N.E. to hills of the Hingol Valley (Kolwa District) and to those bordering Sind nearly to the coast—whence came the type. West of the Hingol I can find no records of this bird. It is doubtless resident where it occurs. All the Baluchi birds belong to this pale race.

Cettia cetti ceotoides, Hume. Cetti's Warbler.

Murray records Cetti's Warbler from the Quetta and Sibi Districts; it should occur though no one has met with it since. Swinhoe obtained it at Kandahar on January 31.

Prinia gracilis lepida (Blyth.) The Streaked Wren-Warbler.

'Pitak' (Brahui.)

The Streaked Wren-Warbler I found common at Sibi in cultivation, and Murray records it at the entrance to the Bolan Pass. Further up it occurs as a straggler but whether breeds is not clear; a specimen in the Quetta Museum was obtained at Sharigh on December 17, Meinertzhagen obtained it at Quetta on August 2 whence Murray records it on March 27 and at Kili Abdullah on May 6; he regarded it as common but it does not seem to be so now. In Kalat it is unrecorded nor did Swinhoe meet with it at Kandahar. Throughout the

Makran from the Habb Valley to the Persian boundary and beyond it is fairly common in suitable scrub, tamarisk, etc. Hotson met with it in the Kolwa District and it doubtless occurs in other valleys of the Central Makran where it is recorded at 3,500 ft.

***Prinia inornata inornata* (Sykes.)** The Indian Wren-Warbler.

This is one of the Indian plains birds which just reach into Baluchistan. Ball records it in the Suleimans (? Fort Munro District) breeding in July and his specimens were identified by Brooks. I have seen it in the Habb Valley and it is very likely to occur in the Sibi Plain.

***Lanius excubitor*.**

There is a lot yet to be done in working out the distribution of the Great Grey Shrikes in Baluchistan and there has been much confusion in the past; many of the older records appeared under *lahtora* and are certainly incorrect. I can only give the status and distribution of each as they appear to be from specimens I have examined.

***Lanius excubitor pallidirostris* Cassin.** The Allied Grey Shrike.

Records which are borne out by specimens, testify that this is the breeding race of Grey Shrike in N. Baluchistan to which it is a summer visitor. It arrives according to Meinertzhagen, early in March and leaves early in November (latest 23). It breeds locally throughout the Chaman, Quetta, Ziarat and Fort Sandeman Districts and probably is the *lahtora* recorded by Ball from the Suleiman Range; it is not a bird of the highest hills preferring the foothills and valleys, 5,000-7,000 ft. It must move down in September as I only saw one on the Kach-Khawash Road on September 25, which is a favorite breeding ground. It probably breeds in the highlands of Kalat as a juvenile obtained on Harboi appears to be of this race. Meinertzhagen found a nest with 4 young at Spereragha on June 11.

In S. Kalat this bird has been obtained on April 26 probably on passage. To the Sibi Plain it is a winter visitor or a straggler.

Throughout the Makran it must occur at least on passage but certain records are very few; some at all events winter there. Blanford obtained it on the Dasht River on January 25, and at Bahu Kalat on February 3. Zugmayer obtained two shrikes presumably breeding birds in coastal Makran at Gurandani on May 19, and Suntsar, June 11, and at the same time and in the same district—between Pasni and Gwadar. Dr. Laubmann kindly sent these for my examination. The adults, which are very bad skins, certainly seem to me to be *pallidirostris*; they have grey on the lesser coverts, some pink tinge on the breast and no frontal black line; the juveniles in moult also show some pink on the breast.

W. D. Cumming tells me he has watched one of these Shrikes feeding on a fallen peach—a curious diet.

***Lanius excubitor aucheri*, Bp.** Bonaparte's Grey Shrike.

From specimens available this race appears to be a scarce migrant in N. Baluchistan, a few overwintering there. Meinertzhagen obtained it on September 27 and October 2, and I have one from Sheik Mandah on January 29. One in the Quetta Museum obtained at Hirok on June 28, is recorded as being of this race; I failed to find the specimen there. In Central and Coastal Makran it is a fairly common winter visitor from the valley of the Hingol westward, arriving early in September.

***Lanius excubitor lahtora*, (Sykes.)** The Indian Grey Shrike.

Many of the records of Blanford, Duke, Murray, etc., of this race in Baluchistan are not to be trusted. It is the breeding bird of the Habb Valley and Las Belas Plain. Zeugmayer obtained specimens in Las Belas and these I have examined and I think that they are no doubt *lahtora*, the big heavy bill, wide black frontal band, little or no grey on the lesser coverts and white breasts and flanks distinguish them. It very likely extends as far west as Ormarra where some Grey Shrike is resident. Duke obtained two birds at Nal in S. Kalat on May 6 and 9, which presumably are breeding birds and which I assign to this race, they both have heavy bills, wide frontal black band, and very long tails (123 and 125 mm. as against 104-117 in *pallidirostris*)

and they have no more grey on the lesser coverts than many Indian *lahtora* have. How far further west and north, if any, this Shrike extends is not known.

In the north it is resident in the Sibi Plain and I thought I saw it up as far as Harnai; how far up the Bolan it extends is not known. Of old records—Barnes's birds from Chaman, St. John's from Kandahar, Blanford's from Mekran, Marshall's from Quetta—all recorded as *lahtora* (those specimens which I have examined), do not belong to this race.

Lanius excubitor przewalskii (Bogdan.) Bogdanow's Grey Shrike.

Meinertzhagen has kindly shown me a male of this magnificent and very distinct Shrike which he obtained at Quetta on November 2, 1913. This not unexpected winter visitor is the breeding race in Turkestan and is a paler grey above, has more white in the plumage and is larger than our other Grey Shrikes.

Lanius vittatus, Valenc. The Bay-Backed Shrike.

'Nargiani', Baluchi; 'Gunañ', Brahui.

To the valleys and plains of N. Baluchistan the Bay-backed Shrike is a summer visitor in fair numbers arriving at the end of March and early April and leaves in mid-August. It even ascends some of the higher hills. To the north-east it is found in Fort Sandeman District and in the Suleiman Range, and to the north reaches Kandahar. Nests with eggs may be found early in May.

South of Kalat it is commoner and throughout Central and Coastal Mekran it is resident as it is in Las Belas and in the Sibi Plain. Its limit westward is about 59° 20' E. (100 miles west of Bampur in E. Persia). W. D. Cumming informed me that he had a tame bird at Ormarra which he taught to hawk dragonflies!

Baluchi birds are not separable from Indian ones.

Lanius schach erythronotus (Vig.) The Rufous-backed Shrike.

The Rufous-backed Shrike is a summer visitor to the higher plains and valleys of N. Baluchistan under 6,000 ft. arriving early in April and leaving at the end of August, adults going first according to Meinertzhagen. It is the commonest Shrike of this area and extends at least as far west as Nushki. It breeds at the end of April and full clutches, 4-5, may be found early in May. At Sibi it is probably resident and at Kandahar some at all events winter.

In the Makran there are few records; it is resident in the Habb Valley and probably extends to the Las Belas Plain. W. D. Cumming only noted it at Ormarra in spring and autumn, west of which I have no records.

Lanius minor, Gm. The Lesser Grey Shrike.

Mr. Nicoll Cumming says that he obtained this Shrike on Takatu near Quetta in May, however I failed to find his specimen in the Quetta Museum. Murray records that he obtained it at Chaman on April 16, 1880. There is a specimen in the British Museum obtained by Swinhoe at Kandahar on April 14, 1881 and one from Jask in Persian Mekran.

W. D. Cumming tells me he saw a Red-backed Shrike (*L. collurio*) at Sheik Mandah on May 1, 1923. There may be some mistake though there is no reason why it should not occur on passage.

Lanius senator niloticus, Bp. The Eastern Woodchat Shrike.

Stuart Baker identified a bird sent him from Quetta as a Woodchat; (*Fauna B.I.*, ed. ii, vol. ii, p. 300) but there are no details of when and where it was obtained or by whom. No other records in Baluchistan or India.

Lanius cristatus phœnicuroides Severtz. The Rufous Shrike.

'Ganj', Brahui.

There has been great confusion in the past by older authors over the Red-tailed Shrikes. It is certain now however that this Shrike is a summer visitor to N. Baluchistan arriving early in March and leaving at the end of August. It nests in the higher hills and valleys between 6,000-9,000 ft. that is from just below tree limits upwards. It breeds on all the higher hills round Quetta as Murdan, Takatu, Khaliphath and at Ziarat; Meinertzhagen found nests in low thorn bushes and noted both greenish and pinkish types of egg; 5 is the usual number.

Throughout Central and Coastal Makran it is a passage migrant and fairly common passing through, as in Sind, in August and September for its winter quarters further south; it possibly breeds in the Panjgur District, Central Makran.

Lanius isabellinus, H. and E. The Pale Brown Shrike.

There are old records of Marshall and Radcliffe of the supposed breeding of this Shrike in the hills of N. Baluchistan but as none is borne out by any specimen it may be taken that the records really refer to *phœnicuroides*. It is a fairly common passage migrant commoner in spring than in autumn and here and there a few overwinter. I found it very common at Sibi in October; Swinhoe records it as common at Kandahar in winter and there are several specimens in the British Museum thence.

As regards Central and Coastal Mekran nothing can be said. Blanford remarked on its absence, Hotson did not obtain it, Cumming says it is a passage migrant in September and March at Ormarra. It should occur but there are no specimens from the Mekran. Laubmann says a young bird obtained by Zeugmayer at Panjgur on July 28, may be this or *phœnicuroides*; it is much more likely to be the latter.

Tephrodornis pondicerianus pallidus, Ticehurst. The Wood Shrike.

Only known from the Habb Valley whence I have seen a specimen, it might extend to Las Belas. The only other likely locality is the fringe of the Sibi Plain.

Pericrocotus brevirostris brevirostris (Vig.) The Short-billed Minivet.

There is in the Quetta Museum a specimen obtained at Sibi on December 11th; it must be a straggler in winter, as it is in Sind, and no doubt would be only found in the plains.

Pericrocotus perigrinus. The Small Minivet.

According to Murray, Bingham obtained a male and two females at Quetta on August 23, 1881. This Minivet may quite well occur in the Sibi plains and wander up to Quetta occasionally but no one else has met with it. It may well occur too in Las Belas.

Oriolus oriolus oriolus (L.) The Indian Oriole.

A bird W. D. Cumming obtained at Charbar on October 24, is in the Quetta Museum and some noted in a cyclone at Ormarra on May 5, probably also belonged to the typical race on passage.

Oriolus oriolus kundoo, Sykes. The Indian Oriole.

This Oriole is a summer visitor to the Quetta Valley and here and there onwards to Kandahar. It is not very common and suitable places are few. It arrives early in April nesting in the gardens and orchards during the last half of May. Unrecorded elsewhere, but Lieut. Searight has noted a few at Fort Sandeman from the last week of April till mid-June.

Pastor roseus (L.) The Rosy Pastor.

Northern Baluchistan is the high road of the Pastors' migrations to and from India: large flocks have been noted almost daily at many places in the Quetta Valley, Chaman, Kalat, Kandahar, etc., halting on their westward migration in spring from mid-April to mid-May, and again on return passage which begins at the end of the first week in July. The same movements in smaller numbers are witnessed in the Central and Coastal Mekran districts. This east-west migration of the pastor in spring and the reverse in autumn is one of the most remarkable migrations of any species in the Indian Fauna and I have already (Ibis, 1922, p. 616) traced the movements of this bird from the plains of India through Baluchistan and Persia to its breeding grounds in Asia Minor. The only other species whose movements are at all comparable is the Black-headed Bunting.

Though no doubt many take the route down the Bolan Pass to the plains others strike through the hills further to the north-east as it occurs on passage in the Fort Sandeman District and Ball has noted daily movements

throughout July from Suleimans to the plains at Dera Ghazi Khan. Further north Whitehead and Magrath noted the same huge bi-annual migrations at Bannu and Kohat in N.W.F.P. and remarked that a few might be seen throughout the summer. Meinertzhagen noted a pair at 9,000 ft. at Ziariat on June 7, and the question arises: Do any breed in N. Baluchistan and in the N.W.F.P. ? ; it is possible though no one has as yet found a nest, but I think it more than likely that there may be colonies in Central Afghanistan which is *terra incognita*. The fact that birds may be obtained in May with organs much enlarged or in July with incubation patches does not prove nesting in the vicinity with this bird as the same phenomena can be seen in Lower Sind. The Pastor is one of the very few birds whose organs enlarge practically to breeding size ere they migrate and as it returns to winter quarters before moulting, birds with incubation patches may be obtained hundreds of miles from the breeding grounds. The Pastor does not winter in N. Baluchistan and only odd ones even appear to do so on the Makran coast. It may winter in the Sibi Plain and Las Belas.

Sturnus vulgaris poltaratzskii, Finsch.

Sturnus vulgaris nobilior, Hume.

Sturnus vulgaris dresseri, But.

Sturnus vulgaris porphyronotus, Sharpe.

To N. Baluchistan the Starling is a winter visitor in small numbers in suitable spots and is commoner perhaps at lower elevations as at Kandahar and Sibi. As regards what races occur I can only judge by specimens I have seen, as some of the older records are not to be relied on. Thus *humii* and *purpurascens* have been recorded but I have seen no specimens of either in any of the museums. Judging then by specimens, *poltaratzskii* is the commonest and then *nobilior*; of *dresseri*, if it be a good race and not a variant of *porphyronotus*, I have seen specimens as well of typical *porphyronotus*. Meinertzhagen has shown me two starlings which he obtained at Quetta on March 13 and 18, 1913, which certainly are not distinguishable from *caucasicus* ! But not every example of *nobilior* is distinguishable from *caucasicus*; in the former the crown and upper throat is purple, in the latter green, but I have seen Kandahar breeding birds quite indistinguishable in these respects from Caucasian examples and also odd Caucasian birds with distinct purple sheens instead of green on these parts.

A few starlings are found here and there on the Makran coast in winter from the end of August till April and they no doubt occur too in Central Makran. From the Makran coast I have seen both *poltaratzskii* and *nobilior*.

Acridotheres tristis tristis (L.) The Common Mynah.

In N. Baluchistan the mynah is common and resident in the Sibi plain but does not appear to be habitually found in the valleys; I did not notice it in the Bolan nor at Harnai; Radcliffe however has met with small flocks in the Quetta Valley in July and August and Marshall noted odd ones chiefly in March and April. These appear to be merely wanderers.

In the south its distribution is curious; it is common enough on the Sind boundary in the Habb Valley and is resident, as it is too in the Las Belas Plain whence it was recorded by Masson as long ago as 1844 and confirmed by others in recent years. North of this I only have one record—Hotson found it at Ornach in the Dhor Valley which place it may have reached by ascending the Larali River from Las Belas. Along the coast Cumming never once saw it at Ormarra but Blanford noted it in 'villages of any size' near Gwadar but not inland. St. John who was with him says he only met with it at Pishin. Hotson however found it at Mand, the Perso-Baluch frontier post, and at Nasirabad and Tump in the Nihing Valley not far distant from Mand. It is possible it has been introduced at Gwadar and has spread inland to the Nihing Valley or it may have extended along the coast. Zarudny lists it as resident in South Persian Baluchistan. A specimen of *Acridotheres ginginianus* in the British Museum labelled 'Kandahar' must be an escape or wrongly labelled. I know of no record of this Mynah in Baluchistan and it is not likely to occur except perhaps just over the N. Sind Frontier.

Muscicapa striata neumanni Poche. The Spotted Flycatcher.

The Spotted Flycatcher is an over-seas summer visitor to N. Baluchistan breeding in the forest area from 7,500 ft. up; at lower elevations it is a passage

migrant arriving at the end of April and early May, and passing again in September till mid-October. It breeds commonly round Ziarat and full clutches (4-5 eggs) may be found at the end of May. I noticed a few still in their breeding haunts to the end of September but most had gone.

To Central and Coastal Makran it is a common passage migrant. W. D. Cumming noted it on passage on the coast on April 26 and May 5, and again on September 10, but it has been met with up till mid-October. There are no winter records.

In the *Fauna of British India*, ed. ii, vol. ii, p. 205. Baluchistan is included in the breeding distribution of *Hemichelidon sibirica gulmergi*. I know however of no record at all of this Sooty Flycatcher in Baluchistan.

Siphia parva parva (Bechst.) The Red-breasted Flycatcher.

The Red-breasted Flycatcher is a common passage migrant in N. Baluchistan arriving early in March to early May and returning about the third week in September (earliest 13) to the end of October; Meinertzhagen has obtained it at Quetta as late as December 3. During the height of autumn passage it is very common in suitable places; thus I found it very numerous at the end of September at Ziarat and on October 8 at Sibi it was swarming. W. D. Cumming informs me that he saw several at Ziarat on May 27, but it has not been proved that it breeds there.

It is rather remarkable that I have no records of this bird in Central and South Baluchistan, it has possibly been overlooked as Blanford met with it not uncommonly on March 22, at Dizak in Persian Makran. The migrants in N. Baluchistan come no doubt largely from the plains of India. This Flycatcher does not appear to winter in Baluchistan except possibly in the Sibi District.

Laubmann records a bird from Pishin as *S. p. albicilla* though he says he is unable to determine the race; but doubtless this bird is of the typical race as are all Baluchi birds I have seen.

Murray records *S. p. hyperythra* as common at the end of March and early April and mentions specimens from Quetta and Chaman. No one has since met with this race and I think Murray must have mistaken males of the typical race for the Kashmir bird.

Tchitrea paradisi turkestanica Zar. The Paradise Flycatcher.

The Paradise Flycatcher appears to be a summer visitor to N. Baluchistan in very sparse numbers, though St. John regarded it as not uncommon in the Kūwaja Amran and other wooded hills, it reaches Kandahar. It occasionally occurs in the Quetta Valley in spring and in 1913 and 1914 Meinertzhagen thought that some tried to nest in the gardens there. The earliest date I have note of it is April 17 (Kandahar) and latest September 23 (Pishin). However, Lieut. Searight informs me quite a number arrive at Fort Sandeman in the first week of May and they breed there and in the Kuchmina Valley.

There are no records in Central and S. Baluchistan. I have already pointed out (Ibis, 1922, p. 626) that this race is recognizable by its paler upper parts in the chestnut dress from the Indian peninsular bird and it winters in the plains.

Saxicola caprata bicolor (Sykes). The Pied Bush-Chat.

The weight of evidence is that the Pied Bush-Chat is a summer visitor throughout N. Baluchistan arriving at the beginning of March and nesting freely in the valleys and plains at about 5,000 ft., but also in smaller numbers up to 10,000 ft. Marshall and W. D. Cumming say that it leaves in October and the latest date is November 11. St. John therefore must have, I think, either made a slip or else the birds' status has altered when he recorded it as common especially in winter 'a few remaining to breed at Quetta and Kandahar.' It is certainly now one of the commonest birds in the Quetta Valley in summer. It nests at the end of April and early May.

To the east of Baluchistan it appears also to be a summer visitor; W. D. Cumming thought it was so in the Coastal Makran and I have no winter records thence; Hotson noted it only from April onwards and then only here and there in Central Makran. On the coast it breeds earlier than in the north; Cumming noted one excavating a hole in the side of a nullah and building on March 9, and found a nest with young on April 12. So it may possibly

be a resident as it is in Sind. It extends as far west as Bam in E. Persia and is said to occur as a straggler at the head of the Persian Gulf (Zarudny).

Birds from Baluchistan and Sind are indistinguishable from those from Turkestan (*rossorum*) on the one hand and from those from the Deccan (*bicolor*) on the other, the types of both of which I have examined; I therefore regard (*rossorum*) as a synonym.

Saxicola torquata indica (Blyth.) (= *maura* F. B 1., ed. i.) The Indian Stone-Chat.

The Indian Stone-Chat is a common summer visitor to the higher valleys of N. Baluchistan breeding there about the end of May at and above 7,000 ft. I found most had left their breeding quarters in the Ziarat Valley and Khawash by September 24, and most depart for the winter altogether, though a few may be found here and there in lower valleys and plains, as at Quetta and Kandahar, while to the Sibi plain it is probably a winter visitor. Extreme passage dates are March 1 and November 11.

To Central and Coastal Makran it is a winter visitor arriving as early as August 23, but it does not appear to be very plentiful. All Baluchi and Kandahar specimens examined are *indica*.

Saxicola macrorhyncha (Stol.) Stoliczka's Chat.

Murray records this very local desert-loving Stone-Chat from the Bolan (Bibi Nani) and Chaman and mentions also specimens from Dubrai and Kandahar. No one has since met with it and I should feel inclined to regard these records as a mistake but that Swinhoe himself records it from Dubrai, April 24, and Kandahar April 19, 1881 and his specimens are in the British Museum. As elsewhere where it is found (Punjab, Sind, Rajputana), it must be very local and resident.

Enanthe monacha (Temm.) The Hooded Chat.

Of all the Wheatears this is the most local and the most addicted to dreary desert hills and plains. All the records come from the Makran coast and date back to the days of Hume and Blanford. It must occur here and there along the Makran and Blanford says a favourite resort is the sand hills of the coast. Bahu Kalat is the furthest north, there is any record of it for certain. It is presumably resident but all the records refer to winter November 27 to February 15, at which period only were these observers in the Makran. In the north there are three records all probably erroneous—Barnes says he saw it at Chaman, Marshall thinks he saw it at 10,000 ft. in May and Murray says it was 'extremely common' in the Bolan and at Dinah Karez in March and April. It might occur near the Bolan as it occurs in the Sind Kirthar.

Enanthe alboniger (Hume). Hume's Chat.

'Monu' Bal. (for all pied-chats).

Hume's Chat is fairly common in the hills of the Makran coast, it is found in the hills round Mand and Hong on the Perso-Baluch frontier and probably throughout the Central Makran range to the Kirthar and the Kalat Hills. In the north it is found here and there but its distribution is not clear. Venning has obtained it at Fort Sandeman and at Lakabund (5,700 ft.) breeding. St. John records it from S. Afghanistan and Kalat and says he found young in May. At Kandahar Swinhoe recorded it as a winter visitant (probably elevational) leaving the district by mid-February. In the Quetta Museum there is a pair (labelled *picata*) which were obtained at Mach in the Bolan Pass on November 16, 1911. Murray records it from Chaman District in April, Mach in March and Kirta, also in the Bolan, in May. Wherever it occurs I believe it to be resident or only elevational in migration.

Enanthe opistholeuca (Strickl.) Strickland's Chat.

Strickland's Chat, judging from the few records, is a scarce passage migrant or winter visitor in the north though possibly it breeds in the extreme north east. Barnes says it occurs very sparingly at Chaman; St. John obtained two at Kandahar in February and March. Meinertzhagen saw a pair at Quetta on February 24, and obtained one there on October 21. There is one in the Quetta Museum shot at Baleli on March 18 while I secured one at Quetta on August 19. Venning got one at Shinghar (8,100 ft.) in the Zhob Valley on

June 21, which presumably must have been breeding. Murray recorded several from the Bolan Pass in March and the Khojak on April 17.

***Enanthe picata* (Blyth.)** The Pied Chat.

The Pied Chat is one of the most universally distributed of the summer visitors to the hills and valleys of N. Baluchistan and is the most numerically abundant of its tribe. It arrives early in March (corresponding to the time it leaves Sind) and breeds at from 5,800 to 11,000 ft. Eggs are recorded as early as April 12, and young out by the 29th, though most do not have eggs—5 to 6,—before the end of April and these have been found up to the end of June so that it may be double brooded. Holes under stones or in rocks, holes in walls or in steep river banks are usual nesting sites, while holes under eaves of houses, wood stacks and even, according to Murray, in holes in pistachio trees are sometimes used. I think a number have departed by mid-August as on two days at that time I enumerated all I saw about thirty males and ten females—all adults—and in Sind the first are back again in July; most have departed by early September but an odd one may occasionally be found during the winter (Kandahar, Quetta, Mach.)

How far south in Baluchistan this bird breeds I do not know, it certainly breeds from Fort Sandenian District in the N. E. across to Harboi in Kalat; south of this there is no certain record of its breeding. To the whole of Central and Coastal Makran it is however a common winter visitor and the latest date for it is March 20. It is a winter visitor too to the Sibi Plain. Hotson remarks on the scarcity of females a fact which I too noted in Sind.

***Enanthe capistrata* (Gould.)** Gould's Chat.

I have elsewhere (Ibis 1922, pp. 151-5), gone very fully in to the arguments for recognizing this bird as a separate species and not as a dimorphism of *picata*; besides differences in plumage and average size it has a very different distribution. In the north whereas *picata* is a common summer visitor *capistrata* is but a rare non-breeding vagrant. Marshall records one at Sibi in February one was obtained at Chaman in March 1901, Meinertzhagen got one at Quetta on August 21 and W. D. Cumming another on March 19.

The only records in the south are two obtained by Blanford in the Habb Valley on February 18, 1877. It is equally rare in Sind.

***Enanthe leucomela* (Pall.)** The Siberian Chat.

St. John records this wheatear as common on spring and autumn passage, at Pishin at the end of September and at Kandahar from March 2 onwards, whence there are three specimens in the British Museum; there is also one from Quetta obtained by Blanford. I obtained one at Ziarat 8,500 ft. on some old plough land on October 5. It appears to be one of the rarest of its tribe and I therefore do not credit Murray's statement that he found it 'extremely common' in the Bolan Pass below Mach.

I have no record of it in S. Baluchistan but it must occur on passage; a curious record is of one in the Indian Ocean 6° 21' N 66° 39' E due south of the Makran and about half-way between Ceylon and the Somali coast!

***Enanthe finschii barnesi* (Oates.)** Barnes's Chat.

This fine Wheatear is a winter visitor in fair numbers to the valleys and higher plains of N. Baluchistan; though it is recorded as early as September 9, near Quetta and September 12 at Kandahar it mainly arrives at the end of the first week of October. Meinertzhagen and Cumming have both noted a preponderance of males, in the few I have seen the proportion of sexes was about equal. It is a bird of the bare plains and the base of stony hillsides. Murray was probably mistaken in saying that this bird was more or less common in the Bolan Pass in May.

Though I have no record of it in Central or Coastal Makran it may occur in the former district as Hotson obtained it beyond the Frontier in Persian Baluchistan in October. I have elsewhere given as I think sound reasons for retaining an eastern form of this bird (Ibis, 1927) the greater size, the colouration and lack of the blackish throat in the female distinguish it from the Egyptian bird.

Enanthe enanthe The Common Wheatear.

The Wheatear is a straggler on passage in the north; Meinertzhagen obtained a male on March 17, at Quetta and a female on October 18. The latter is in the Quetta Museum but when I examined it I had no material at hand for comparison; many female Wheatears, but not all, east of the Mediterranean are paler than any typical European birds and these for the time I call *rostrata* of Hemprich and Erhenburg. (See addenda to *Birds of Iraq*, p. 103 of this volume).

Enanthe isabellina (Crtz.) The Isabelline Wheatear.

'Gidik', Brahui (all wheatears).

In the north the Isabelline Wheatear has a mixed status; it is a common winter visitor and passage migrant while a certain number are either summer visitors or are resident, some nesting in some years more than in others. The passage movements take place about mid-March and again at the end of August to late in October. Possibly some are resident as Barnes records young at the end of March but April appears to be the main month for eggs. As elsewhere it is a local bird. The nests—pads of cotton, wool and feathers—are situated in holes in the ground, resembling rat holes, and are two feet or more from the entrance, according to Betham. It is almost certainly double brooded as Betham found a clutch of five eggs on June 2, in a nest which on May 7, had held young. The usual number of eggs is 5 to 6.

Whether it breeds in Central Makran is not clear, it is fairly common there throughout the winter and Hotson obtained it at Panjgur on April 1, but Zeugmayer who was there in June did not meet with it. In Coastal Makran it is found from October to March, as in Sind.

Enanthe deserti atrogularis (Blyth.) The Desert Wheatear.

Throughout most of Baluchistan the Desert Wheatear is in suitable places a common winter visitor and probably is the commonest of its tribe. In the north many leave for the coldest months and so is there mainly a passage migrant, most passing through in October and again in March to the end of April. Whether it breeds or not in N. Baluchistan is a matter which wants clearing up; no one of recent years has found it nesting. Marshall records a nest of young at Quetta on May 24 and Duke obtained two specimens (in Brit. Mus.) in S. Kalat at Surab and Gahdegan on May 20, 1877. Marshall's nest was situated in the side of a bare bank of mud and concealed under the roots of a dead shrub, as it contained three young nearly fledged he ought not to have made any mistake over the identification. I saw two or three in the Quetta Valley on August 18, which is early for passage migrants to be there. The latest date Meinertzhagen has seen it is April 29.

To the Sibi plain and the whole of the Mekran it is a common winter visitor latest date March 29.

Enanthe deserti oreophila (Oberh.) The Tibetan Desert Wheatear.

As I have pointed out (Ibis, 1922, pp. 155-8) this race of Desert Wheatear is the breeding bird of Ladak and Tibet and winters amongst other places in Baluchistan but not in the plains of India. Its numbers in Baluchistan are swamped by those of *atrogularis* but it occurs doubtless throughout Central and Coastal Makran at least on the west side (Pasni February, Gwader December, as well as in Persian Mekran and Persian Baluchistan) and in N. Baluchistan at least on passage (Kandahar September 14 Quetta August 26, February 23, March 3, Gatai April 26).

Enanthe xanthopyrmya chrysopygia (De Fil.) The Red-tailed Wheatear.

The Redtailed Wheatear is a winter visitor in small numbers and the records are scattered over various places from the north right down to the Makran coast. It probably occurs in small numbers throughout the country. I have always found it to be a bird of bare and desolate spots with a distinct liking for the foot of rocky hillsides. Meinertzhagen has seen it as early as August 18, at Quetta, but most come later. It may be found almost at any elevation, it has been obtained on Khaliphat, 11,000 ft., in November and I have seen it as low down at Nari Bank, 600 ft. in September.

I can hardly credit that Murray obtained six birds, as he records, at Mach on May 19; it seems a very late date. I know of no record of this bird nesting

in our area though Baluchistan is given in its breeding range in the new edition of the Fauna.

It is noteworthy that all the Wheatears of British India occur in Baluchistan.

Chaimarrhornis leucocephala (Vig.) The White-capped Redstart.

Meinertzhagen obtained this Redstart on March 2, and saw another at Baleli on April 14, in each case the bird was on rocks by running water. There are two in the Quetta Museum obtained at Manji on November 19, 1915 and at Baleli on November 7. I think it is rather remarkable that this bird whose nearest known breeding quarters are in the Safed Koh should wander in winter to parts where running streams are so comparatively few.

Baluchistan seems to be included in the distribution of the Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*) in the new edition of the Fauna; I know of no record of this bird in Baluchistan.

Phoenicurus erythronotus (Evers.) Eversmann's Redstart.

Eversmann's Redstart is a common winter visitor from October to March from Fort Sandeman to Kalat and from Kandahar to the Quetta Valley. Elsewhere there are no records. Murray records it from Dozan on May 17; he records also *Ph. hodgsoni* from Gulistan in May! No one else has ever met with this Redstart west of Nepal and therefore I think we must disregard both of these records.

Phoenicurus ochrurus phœnicuroides (Moore.) The Western Indian Redstart.

To the afforested area of N. Baluchistan from Kalat to Fort Sandeman this Redstart is a summer visitor breeding at from 7,000 to 11,000 ft. and is one of the commonest birds in the forest. It nests from the middle of May on wards and clutches of 3 to 5 eggs are recorded; the nests are made of grasses, juniper bark and feathers. On October 7, I found it still the commonest bird in the juniper forest; in winter it seeks the lower valleys and plains such as Quetta, Kandahar, Sibi and no doubt many migrate to the Indian plains.

To Central and Coastal Mekran it is a winter visitor and is common enough in sheltered rasines, etc.

Cyanosylvia suecica pallidogularis (Zar.) The Indian Red-spotted Blue Throat.

This Bluethroat is a common passage migrant in N. Baluchistan passing through in September and October, earliest September 22, and again in March and April, earliest March 4; on October 5, several arrived in the juniper forest at Ziarat 9,000 ft. but immediately passed on. It winters in the Sibi plain and odd ones do so in sheltered nooks in the valleys as there is one from Quetta in December in that Museum.

To Central and Coastal Makran it is a winter visitor wherever cover is sufficient.

All specimens I have seen except one are referable to this pale-throated form.

Cyanosylvia suecica suecica (L.) The European Red-spotted Bluethroat.

One which Meinertzhagen obtained, a male in full dress, on March 26, at Quetta neither he nor I can separate from the typical race; the blue is much darker than in *pallidogularis*.

Murray records that Barnes obtained a pair of the White-throated Robin (*Cossypha gutturalis*) at Chaman on July 2, 1880 and that Watson obtained one at Quetta in June. No one has met with this bird since and Barnes who published his second paper on Chaman birds in *Stray Feathers* in September 1881 does not allude to it. I think there must be some mistake on Murray's part; he says he never met with this species himself.

Luscinia megarhyncha golzii (Cab.) The Eastern Nightingale.

A Nightingale was obtained in Quetta on October 1913 and another in the Quetta Museum was shot locally on April 30, 1909. Meinertzhagen obtained one there in February. Nightingales are rather frequently kept as cage birds and it is possible all these were escapes.